California Weather-Hydro Conditions during July 2008

As of August 1, Water Year 2008 statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 80 percent of average to date; runoff, 60 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 75 percent of average for the date. As of June 10, the date of the last forecast this water year, the projected median April-July runoff for the water supply basins ranged from 78% (Kings River) to 47% (Tule River). Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through July 31, 2008 was about 9.7 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 54% of average. (On July 31, 2007, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 9.6 MAF or about 54% of average.)

Spring of 2008 has turned out to be extremely dry. For the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index, the Water Year 2008 combined March through June total precipitation is only 3.4 inches, the driest on record (since 1921). The Water Year 2008, 8-Station Index, October through June total of 34.8 inches is the 17th driest year out of 88 years of record. The 2-year combined total precipitation for Water Years 2007 (37.2 inches) and 2008 (34.8 inches) is 72.0 inches, the 9th driest 2-year period on record.

January and early February brought significant amounts of precipitation to California, including heavy snowfall in the mountains. California's large water supply reservoirs received some inflow from these storms; however, the amounts were muted because much of the precipitation fell as snow. Because precipitation was significantly below average last year, dry hydrologic conditions prevail. Storage in most of the major water supply reservoirs is well below average. The Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes are both forecasted to be "Critical."

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 08/01/2008 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2007 - 2008 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2007 - 2008
Eureka	0.02	200	0.97	---	0
Redding	0.00	0	1.15	---	0
Sacramento	0.00	0	0.01	20	0
San Francisco	0.00	0	0.01	33	0
Fresno	0.01	100	0.00	0	0
Bakersfield	0.00	0	0.00	0	0
Los Angeles	0.00	0	0.00	0	0
San Diego	0.00	0	0.00	0	0

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 08/01/2008								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,398	1,987	70	2,448	57	---	1,050
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	1,893	3,309	57	4,552	42	-2,659	2,659
Lake Oroville	Feather	1,289	2,629	49	3,538	36	-2,249	2,249
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	637	749	85	966	66	-329	329
Folsom Lake	American	347	706	49	977	35	-630	630
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,201	1,451	83	2,420	50	-1,219	1,219
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,219	1,533	80	2,030	60	-811	811
Lake McClure	Merced	382	625	61	1,025	37	-643	643
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	213	323	66	520	41	-307	307
Pine Flat Res	Kings	179	514	35	1,000	18	-821	821
Isabella	Kern	201	267	75	568	35	-363	367
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	420	1,029	41	2,039	21	---	1,619

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather outlook for August 2008, issued July 31, 2008, forecasts average precipitation for all of California except for the northeastern region, where below average rainfall is expected.